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Introduced by Senator Ortiz

August 30, 2006

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Senate Resolution No. 36—Relative to Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all  
2 gynecological cancers, and the reported incidence of ovarian  
3 cancer is increasing over time; and  
4 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of  
5 cancer deaths among United States women; and  
6 WHEREAS, All women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90  
7 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a  
8 family history that puts them at higher risk; and  
9 WHEREAS, The Pap smear is sensitive and specific to the  
10 early detection of cervical cancer, but not to detect ovarian  
11 cancer; and  
12 WHEREAS, There is currently no reliable and  
13 easy-to-administer screening test used for the early detection of  
14 ovarian cancer; and  
15 WHEREAS, Many people are unaware that the symptoms of  
16 ovarian cancer can often include persistent abdominal pressure,  
17 bloating, abnormal bleeding, and unexplained weight loss or  
18 gain, among several other symptoms that are easily confused  
19 with other diseases; and  
20 WHEREAS, Due to lack of a reliable early screening test, 75  
21 percent of ovarian cancer cases are detected at an advanced stage,  
22 when the five-year survival rate is only 25 percent, a much lower  
23 rate than for many other cancers; and  
24 WHEREAS, If diagnosed and treated at an early stage before  
25 the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is

1 potentially less costly, and the five-year survival rate is as high as  
2 90 percent; and

3 WHEREAS, There are factors that are known to reduce the  
4 risk for ovarian cancer and play an important role in the  
5 prevention of the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Awareness and early recognition of ovarian  
7 cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's  
8 lives; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of California has responded to the need  
10 for increased education and information about these cancers and  
11 in 1997 created the Gynecologic Cancer Information Program  
12 within the State Department of Health Services' Office of  
13 Women's Health to produce and distribute patient education  
14 materials; and

15 WHEREAS, The State of California currently operates the  
16 Cancer Research Program within the State Department of Health  
17 Services, which was established in 1998 and provides critical  
18 funds for innovative and needed cancer research in California  
19 with an emphasis on gender-specific cancers, such as ovarian,  
20 cervical, and prostate cancers; and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislature has, pursuant to Resolution  
22 Chapter 132 of the Statutes of 1999 (SCR 46), designated the  
23 month of September of every year as Ovarian Cancer Awareness  
24 Month throughout the State of California; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the  
26 Senate of the State of California hereby recognizes September  
27 2006 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month throughout  
28 California, and encourages and promotes the efforts of the people  
29 and the health care practitioners of the state to increase their  
30 awareness of this disease and to educate themselves about its  
31 early detection and prevention, the risk factors involved in its  
32 development, and the early warning symptoms and signs thereof;  
33 and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
35 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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